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Feathers lend wings to the arrow, on whose shaft end two split halves of feathers are sewed opposite each other in spiral turns. Otherwise they seem to be used exclusively, but in great volume here, for ornaments, such as ear feathers, feather crowns, feather caps, feather arm bands, feather cloaks (among the Kamayurá), and in hundredfold decoration on small ornaments, where little colored bundles hung on hammocks, combs, gourd rattles, arrow throwers, masks, etc. The most magnificent material was available, from the yellow, blue, red, and green of the arara, toucan, weaver birds, and parrots, from the beautiful stripes or speckles of the curassows, falcons, and owls, to the shimmering white of the heron: and storks or the black of the urubu vulture. The big, broad, black-and-white striped flag of the Harpyia destructor was magnificent.

The spoils of hunting and fishing therefore offered an abundance of the most necessary things. In particular it furnished tools for cutting, scraping, polishing, piercing, boring, scratching, and digging. Agriculture assured the natives a sedentary existence and improved their economic condition, but they still remained fishermen and hunters, though to a lesser extent. They were hunters without dogs, fishermen without hooks, farmers without plow and spade. They afford us an excellent example that teaches us how manifold the methods of work for the purpose of making a living could have been before the possession of any metal technique, an example that warns us about overestimating the importance of stone implements, which, of course are preserved the best and most plentifully for posterity, and about throwing indiscriminately into the great pot of the Stone Age everything that comes before the use of metal and, in comparison to the small span of time established for this, must embrace unimaginably long periods.

If one judges culture according to the extent and thoroughness with which the surrounding nature is exploited by the human beings, then our natives certainly did not stand on a low level. They hunted and fished with arrow /209/ and bow, they fished with net, catch-basket, and weir-baskets, they had their fish